



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
DELTA BATTERY, 1ST BATTALION, 31ST FIELD ARTILLERY
5955 ROTHWELL STREET
FORT SILL, OKLAHOMA 73503

26 March 2018

Commander, Delta Battery, 1st Battalion, 31st Field Artillery

Dear Parents, Family Members, and Friends:

The Soldiers of Delta Battery are proving their toughness every day. They are motivated, fit, knowledgeable, and ready to graduate! Before they do, however, there are still a few more weeks of rigorous and necessary training.

This is the time in the cycle when families are anxious to make travel plans to see their Soldier graduate. This letter will provide you with the information you need in order to make your travel plans. You might consider not making travel purchases until you have heard from your Soldier that they will graduate. We will make every effort to have your Soldier contact you when their graduation is confirmed. However, I cannot guarantee who they will call. They may call their significant other or a friend and fail to notify you (the family member). This is beyond my control. **Please do not contact the battery asking whether or not your Soldier will graduate.** No news is good news! When you make your travel plans, please keep in mind travel time to the airports; approximately 1.5 hours from Oklahoma City to the Lawton/Fort Sill area and 20 minutes from the Lawton Regional Airport.

It is recommended that if you are purchasing plane tickets, that you **purchase refundable tickets**. There have been several instances in the past where it has been decided in the last week or two of the cycle that the Soldier will not graduate. If your Soldier is having trouble passing his/her physical fitness tests, they will be given at least two extra attempts. These extra attempts are during weeks 8 and 9 of Basic Combat Training (BCT). You will not receive notice from the Soldier unless they have failed the last make up test. Again, this is beyond my control. I cannot graduate a Soldier who has not passed their final Army Physical Fitness Test (APFT). In these instances, the families still came and attended graduation but did not get to see their Soldier walk across the stage during graduation. I cannot stress enough the importance of making refundable travel plans.

While you are here, we ask that you help preserve the historical significance of Fort Sill. Please wear appropriate attire and act accordingly. There is no dress code, but vulgar or distasteful slogans or exposures are not acceptable for these family events. **All civilian and military personnel entering Fort Sill must have a valid state issued driver's license or military ID, insurance, and current registration at the gate with the provided gate pass.** Family members who have their driver's license or state ID issued in Minnesota or Missouri must present a second form of ID which includes but not limited to a passport, a picture ID, birth certificate, etc. If you never received a vehicle pass or did not send in the documents to receive one, you will

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need to apply for one at the Visitor Control Center prior to entering the Sheridan Road Gate. If this is the case, I kindly ask that you arrive early so that you have time to obtain your pass and still make it to Family Day or Graduation on time. If for some reason you followed all of the instructions and your pass is not at the Visitor Control Center waiting for you, you will still be able to fill out a form and receive one. I ask that you please remain tactful. Please do not show a disrespectful attitude towards the employees at the Visitor Control Center if your pass is not there. Please be patient with us and the Visitor Control Center, as over 250 passes are submitted weekly. All personally owned vehicles are subject to search by Fort Sill Police. Privately owned firearms are **NOT ALLOWED** on Fort Sill. Larger bags, parcels, and backpacks will not be permitted at these events. Use of cellular phones while driving on Fort Sill is strictly prohibited. Please cooperate with these measures. Please visit following website for more information on gradutaions here at Ft. Sill, OK: <http://www.fortsillgraduation.com/>

The **Family Orientation Townhall** will be held at 1st BN 31st FA Building, Lesh Hall **5955 Rothwell St., Lawton, OK 73503, in Classroom 140 at 6:00 P.M. on Wednesday, 18 April 2018.** The Townhall will orient you to Family Day and Graduation activities, the Lawton, Fort Sill area, Question and Answer Session with the Battery Command Team, and standards of conduct for the events.

Family Day will be held in the **Delta Battery Area** starting at **10:00 A.M. on Thursday, 19 April 2018.** You can use the map that we have provided for details. Family Day highlights your Soldier's achievements over the Basic Combat Training cycle. This is done through a series of demonstrations on weapons, tactics, drill and ceremony, and physical fitness. Then I will provide essential information on the pass policies for Family Day and Graduation. At the conclusion of this ceremony, your Soldier **MAY** be released on a day pass with you, to visit the Lawton/Fort Sill area. Weather here changes rapidly, so please be sure to check the forecast and dress accordingly.

The **Graduation Ceremony** will begin at **1:00 PM on April 20, 2017** at the **Cache Creek Chapel Complex (CCCC) located at 6043 Rothwell Street, Fort Sill, OK 73503.** (This address will also populate on most map programs on cellular devices.) Your Soldier will participate in this ceremony, provided your Soldier meets all Basic Combat Training requirements and is not facing any administrative actions. During the ceremony, please feel free to take pictures of your Soldier as they graduate. Please keep the aisles clear for Soldier movements during the ceremony. The graduating class will be seated together and will not have an opportunity to socialize before or during this time. If you arrive earlier than 30 minutes before the ceremony begins, you will not be permitted to enter the facility. Ensure that you arrive on time.

The timeline for Family Orientation Townhall, Family Day, and Graduation Day is as follows:

Family Orientation Townhall: April 18, 2018
5:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. Arrival for Townhall
6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Townhall

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Family Day: April 19, 2018 (It will be an outside event! Dress accordingly and bringing sunblock is recommended.)

09:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	Arrival for the Family Day Activities
10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	Family Day Ceremony
11:00 a.m. – 7:45 p.m.	Pass Privileges
7:50 p.m.	Accountability Formation

Graduation: April 20, 2018

12:30 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.	Doors Open/Seating Begins at the CCCC
1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.	Graduation Ceremony
2:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.	Field Artillery and Air Defense Artillery Series Soldiers Travel to the Battery for out-processing
2:00 p.m. - 7:45 p.m.	Pass Privileges (Everyone minus Field Artillery and Air Defense Artillery Soldiers)
7:50 p.m.	Accountability Formation

Immediately following the graduation, we will transport the Soldiers back to the Battery Headquarters and they will be released on pass. Soldiers remaining at Fort Sill, (Field Artillery and Air Defense Artillery series military occupational specialties (MOS)) will ship to their respective Advanced Individual Training (AIT) unit before they are released for pass. Field Artillery (MOS 13 series) Soldiers will ship to 1-78 Field Artillery Battalion at 2:30 p.m. The families and friends of Field Artillery Soldiers need to attend a brief before they are able to sign their Soldier out on a pass at 2:30 p.m. AIT is located at the 1-78 FA BN Headquarters, Building 2735 Bragg Street, Fort Sill, OK 73503. This pass has historically been a weekend pass, requiring Soldiers to sign back in to their gaining unit on Sunday night. I cannot promise that this will be the case, so try to make your plans as flexible as you can. All Soldiers remaining at Fort Sill who are Air Defense Artillery (MOS 14 series) Soldiers will ship to their respective AIT unit on Friday 20 April at 1:30 pm. They will ship to 30th Air Defense Artillery Battalion. These Soldiers may or may not be released to families for pass.

Soldiers with follow on assignments, at different posts, will be released after graduation from the Battery Headquarters, but must report back by **7:45 PM** for accountability. These Soldiers will be shipped out that night to their follow-on assignments, throughout the country. Soldiers will travel by government arranged travel to their follow-on locations. Soldiers will not be permitted to drive their personal owned vehicles or travel with Family members to their Advanced Individual Training (AIT) destination, as government travel plans have already been arranged and paid for.

I hope you enjoy your visit to the Lawton/Fort Sill Area. Lawton/Fort Sill offers a wide array of attractions. As you may know, Fort Sill is located in southwest Oklahoma and is surrounded by the Wichita Mountains. If you take a drive through the Wichita Mountains, you can visit several tourist sites such as Mount Scott, the Holy City, and the Wildlife Refuge Center. In Lawton, you can enjoy the Great Plains Museum and enjoy some local entertainment. On Fort Sill, you can tour Geronimo's Guard House and Gravesite, the Old Post Quadrangle Museum, and the U.S. Army Field Artillery Museum. While you are here, you might check out the Lake Elmer Thomas Recreation

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Area (LETRA), which has mini golf and areas for picnics. The USO (located at 3265 Crane Ave, Ft. Sill, OK 73503 next to the Sheridan Theater) offers self-paced phone tours for any number of the sites and scenes immediately surrounding the Lawton/Fort Sill area.

You can find additional information about local hotels and restaurants in the Lawton/Fort Sill area at the Chamber of Commerce website: <http://www.lawtonfortsillchamber.com/>. Additional information can be found at <http://sill-www.army.mil/INDEX/maps/>, <http://sill-www.army.mil/>, and <http://fortsillgraduations.com/>.

While you are here please remember the following general rules. Soldiers are not allowed to drink alcohol or consume nicotine products. They are not allowed to visit establishments whose primary purpose of business is to serve alcohol (Bars, Clubs, and Cigar Lounges). While you, the family and friends, are welcome to visit any of the surrounding casinos, your Soldier is **NOT** permitted in those establishments. Your Soldier must remain in the uniform you pick them up in, the Army Service Uniform, throughout their entire Day Pass. Your Soldier is not permitted to operate any motor vehicle, motorcycle, or recreational vehicle while on pass. More information will be given out on **April 19th** during **Family Day**.

Finally, I would like to say that the Drill Sergeants have put in some extremely long hours to ensure your Soldier is fit to fight and prepared to protect this great nation. They spend more time with your Soldier than they do with their own families, and are deeply committed to training your Soldier to the highest standard possible. If you want to help by showing your appreciation for your Drill Sergeant's hard work, please visit our Family Readiness Group (FRG) table. We will have refreshments, snacks, and souvenirs available for donations. 100% of all donations go to the Family Readiness Group. The FRG is an official command-sponsored organization of Family members, volunteers, and Soldiers belonging to the unit. They provide support and assistance through a network of Family members, the chain of command, and community resources.

You can contact me via telephone at any time at the following number (580) 442-0116 or by email at deltademons131@gmail.com. On behalf of the Battery Cadre and Drill Sergeants, we look forward to meeting you at graduation.

Proud Americans!

Sincerely,

JEDIDIAH Z. SCHLISSEL
CPT, FA
Commanding